

Appl. S.N. 10/723,318
Amdt. Dated
Reply to Office Action of 08/04/2006

135858-1

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

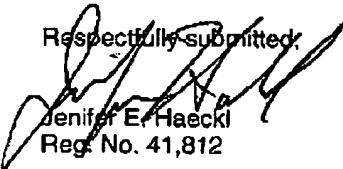
This amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed August 4, 2006, wherein claims 1-22 were rejected. Claims 1-5, 8-19, 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by US Publication No. 2004/0010193 A1 (Entrekin et al.); and claims 6, 7 and 20 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Entrekin et al. as applied to claims 1 and 15, and further in view of US Patent No. 6,243,484 B1 (Godik). In this amendment, claims 1, 6, 12, 15, 19 and 20 were amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-22 remain pending in this application. Reconsideration in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

As amended, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-22 are patentable in view of Entrekin and in view of Godik. Neither Entrekin nor Godik discloses an apparatus for compressing tissue to be scanned for medical imaging, wherein the apparatus comprises: a compression membrane; and a tensioning apparatus coupled to said membrane to apply a tensile force to said membrane to place said membrane in a taut condition during an imaging process; wherein said tensioning apparatus comprises an inflatable bladder responsive to one of the following commands for applying the tensile force: a hydraulic command and a pneumatic command. Although the Examiner noted that Godik discloses a membrane that itself is an inflatable bag, Godik does not disclose a tensioning apparatus that comprises an inflatable bladder to apply a tensile force to the membrane.

In view of the foregoing amendments and for the reasons set out above, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is needed to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Monday, November 5, 2006

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